

APPENDIX
THE SCARAB FROM EL-AR P1

Joachim Śliwa

The scarab is made of faience preserving traces of a worn green glaze on the surface. The condition of the object is good despite wear on the edges. Dimensions: 20 x 14 x 9 mm [Fig. 1].

The scarab is of oval shape and carefully modeled. The threading hole was pierced through on the long axis. The surface of the back is cut transversely by a line separating

the *elytra* from the *pronotum* (*prothorax*). Two down-pointing triangles are suspended from this line. A vertical line divides the *elytra* surface into two. The head of the scarab is short and broad; the *clypeus* is fan-shaped with three incisions at the edge. The limbs are marked with a horizontal engraved line running around the base. On the base, two falcon-headed figurines are depicted



Fig. 1. Scarab from El-Ar P1, top and base
(Photo M. Jawornicki)

inside an oval field. Holding hands, they move to the right. The figure on the left has the solar disc of Re on the head, while the deity on the right wears the feather crown of Amun. Below the figures there is a simple horizontal line.

Scarabs and plaques with similar characteristics of style depicting two falcon-headed deities walking to the right are dated to the Nineteenth–Twentieth Dynasties at the earliest and to the period following this. Finds from stratigraphic contexts are usually later however. In the case of the scarab from El-Ar the nearest parallels come from Medinet Habu in Egypt and Ashdod in Palestine. Similar features of style and iconography are presented by a two-sided steatite plaque from Medinet Habu (identical decoration on both sides). The image depicts two falcon-headed deities holding hands and walking to the right (Teeter 2003: cat. no. 9, 25, Pl. 2c).¹ A steatite scarab of similar dimensions covered with light brown glaze, also from

Medinet Habu and from a similar context, constitutes an important parallel (Teeter 2003: cat. no. 102, 72, Pl. 31b). The features of the scarab are somewhat different, however: the back is more convex, the legs more naturalistic in the modeling, the *pronotum* oval in outline. The representation on the base contains a ram-headed god in a feather crown on the left and a falcon-headed one with a solar disc on its head on the right. Emily Teeter (2003: 72) interprets the pair as probably Re and Amon, deities of the new and old sun, symbolizing the eternal solar cycle. Yet another parallel is presented by a steatite scarab from Ashdod, where it was found in a chronological context defined as Iron Age II B–C (8th–7th century BC), but the object itself was dated by O. Keel (1997: Ashdod 7, 664–665) to the Nineteenth–Twentieth Dynasties or later. The scarab from El-Ar 1 should be dated therefore to the late New Kingdom or beginning of the Third Intermediate Period (from the Twentieth to the Twenty-fifth Dynasty).

REFERENCES

Keel, O.

- 1997 *Corpus der Stempelsiegel-Amulette aus Palästina/Israel. Katalog Band I* [=OBO Series *Archéologique* 13], Fribourg–Göttingen

Teeter, E.

- 2003 *Scarabs, scaraboids, seals and seal impression from Medinet Habu* [=OIP 118], Chicago: The Oriental Institute

1 According to U. Hölscher (Teeter 2003: 25), the scarab was found "in grid H/12 by the well of Nectanebo II, on the Roman level", but a number of finds was considered pre-Ptolemaic on the grounds of their stylistic features. Teeter dated the stratum to the Twentieth–Twenty-fifth Dynasties.